



Memorandum

To: Providers of Data to the Passaic River Database

From: Scott Kirchner

Date: November 13, 2015

Subject: Questionnaire for Details on Datasets Submitted to EPA's Passaic River Database

The goal of this questionnaire is to obtain information on the data submitted to EPA's Passaic River Database. Specifically, the information requested is in regard to the process used for calculated totals and total results submitted as received from the laboratory. The questionnaire is set up in two parts:

- Part 1 captures information pertaining to calculated totals generated by the data provider. These questions are in reference to the rule listed below as quoted from the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG), *Data Usability and Data Evaluation Plan for the Lower Passaic River Study Area Risk Assessments, Final* dated July 20, 2015.

"Rule 1 (for non-toxicity-weighted totals) – The total used in the risk assessments will be based on the sum of the detected constituent parameters (non-detected parameters will be treated as zeros); if none of the constituent parameters are detected, the total concentration will be flagged as non-detected (U-qualified) and represented as the highest RL. If any one of the constituent parameters is not reported, partial totals will be calculated and flagged. The use of partial totals will be addressed in the uncertainty analysis in the risk assessments.

In order to ensure that the rule for determining non-toxicity-weighted totals is appropriate in the risk assessments, exposure estimates using totals based on the treatment of non-detects as zero, one-half the RL, and equal to the RL will be compared with one another to determine whether the treatment of non-detected parameters (as zero) affects exposure estimates. This evaluation will be included in the discussion of uncertainties associated with risk estimates."

- Part 2 captures information pertaining to calculated totals that may have been generated by the laboratory and not updated prior to delivery to the EPA

For the purpose of this request, the data provider is the entity responsible for submitting data to the EPA Region 2 Passaic River Database. An example completed questionnaire is provided on page 3. Please return the completed questionnaires to kirchnersf@cdmsmith.com, by December 18th if possible. If you have any questions please contact Scott Kirchner.

Passaic River Database Questionnaire for Calculated Totals

Respondent:		Response			
Data provided by respondent:		Yes	No	Not Applicable	Comment
1	Questions regarding application of Rule 1				
1a	Was Rule 1, as stated in the CPG's <i>Data Usability and Data Evaluation Plan</i> , always followed for your total calculations?				
1b	Were these totals generated after validation?				
1c	Were these totals identified with the result_type_code CALC (as opposed to TRG) in the Region 2 EDD forwarded to EPA?				
1d	Were totals generated for individual PCB homologs?				
1e	Were total PCBs calculated?				
1f	Were totals generated for dioxin/furan homologs?				
1g	Were totals generated for LMW, HMW, and total PAHs?				
1h	Were EMPC-qualified results treated as non-detect (set equal to zero) in totals?				
1i	Were rejected (R-qualified) results included in the calculation of totals?				
1j	Was the most restrictive qualifier from the individual results applied to the totaled result?				
1k	If there was an R-qualified result associated with the compounds used to calculate a total, was an R qualifier applied to the totaled result?				
2	Questions regarding totals forwarded to EPA (those provided directly from the laboratory, not generated from validated results)				
2a	Were PCB homologs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?				
2b	Were total PAHs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?				
2c	Were Dioxin/Furan homologs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?				
2d	Were toxicity equivalency results (TEQs) received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?				

Example Passaic River Database Questionnaire for Calculated Totals

Respondent:	CDM Smith	Response			
Data provided by respondent:	Oversight EPA split sample data of CPG sampling events for 17 mile RI/FS 2009 to present.	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Comment
1	Questions regarding application of Rule 1				
1a	Was Rule 1, as stated in the CPG's <i>Data Usability and Data Evaluation Plan</i> , always followed for your total calculations?	X			
1b	Were these totals generated after validation?	X			
1c	Were these totals identified with the result_type_code CALC (as opposed to TRG) in the Region 2 EDD forwarded to EPA?	X			All totals calculated by CDM Smith and updated to the database are identified with CALC.
1d	Were totals generated for individual PCB homologs?		X		
1e	Were total PCBs calculated?	X			
1f	Were totals generated for dioxin/furan homologs?		X		
1g	Were totals generated for LMW, HMW, and total PAHs?	X			
1h	Were EMPC-qualified results treated as non-detect (set equal to zero) in totals?		X		
1i	Were rejected (R-qualified) results included in the calculation of totals?		X		
1j	Was the most restrictive qualifier from the individual results applied to the totaled result?	X			
1k	If there was an R qualified result associated with the compounds used to calculate a total, was an R qualifier applied to the totaled result?			X	
2	Questions regarding totals forwarded to EPA (those provided directly from the laboratory, not generated from validated results)				
2a	Were PCB homologs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?	X			
2b	Were total PAHs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?		X		
2c	Were Dioxin/Furan homologs received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?		X		These data are stored as received from the laboratory
2d	Were toxicity equivalency results (TEQs) received from the laboratory recalculated after validation?		X		TEQs are calculated as needed for reporting